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occupies more lines than the account of the bird, as with the savanna sparrow and purple martin. An amusing feature of the extensive bibliography is the translation of the titles of newspaper articles into intelligible form, for example,—*Linger in Winter's Lap*. (An account of birds which delayed their migration.)—*Birds of Mystery at Lake Forest*. (Notes on evening grosbeaks.)—The twelve half-tones of birds or bird haunts include a photograph of a colony of great blue herons, twenty miles north of Chicago.

F. T. L.

The Excess of Male Births.—In the May *Naturalist* (vol. 41, p. 303) A. H. Pike discussed the significance of the excess of male births in human offspring, extensive statistics indicating that 106 males are born for every 100 females. In the June issue of the *Proc. of the Cambridge Phil. Soc.* (vol. 14, p. 122) Walter Heape presents the best available statistics for dogs. Among 36,867 pups of registered stock there are 117 males for every 100 females. Of some twenty breeds considered, all showed an excess of males except two, the figures for which were based on limited returns. The excess of males is apparently greater in large breeds of dogs than in small ones. Mr. Heape believes that the *latest* moment at which sex of offspring can be determined is the time of fertilization. However, since nutrition of the parents may alter the sex-determining factors in their spermatozoa or ova, he thinks it possible that the sex of offspring may be controlled, at least to some extent.

F. T. L.

Recent Publications Concerning the Structure of Insects.—*The Wing Rudiments of the Sheep Tick*.—That the wings of the adult insect are present in the larva in the form of disk-like rudiments is a well known fact. Even wingless species, excepting the Thysanura, possess these so-called "imaginal disks" in the larvae, thus indicating descent from winged ancestors. Extending the work of Pratt, '00, Stange,¹ '07, has traced the development and the degeneration of the rudiments of the wings and halteres in the sheeptick, *Melophagus ovinus*.

He finds that in the earlier stages the disks of the wings and the halteres are identical in appearance except that from the first the

¹ Stange, P. Über die Rückbildung der Flügel und Halterenscheiben bei *Melophagus ovinus*. *Zool. Jahrb. Anat.*, 1907, 24, pp. 295-322. Pls. 27-28.